



Volunteers with Critical Resistance Portland have a home in a new community gathering space open to multiple social justice organizations and communities of color at 14 N.E. Killingsworth St. Pictured are Mohamed Shehk (from left), Anna Swanson, Myell Thompson and Cory Lira.

## Shared Stewardship

## Social justice advocates introduce new space for organizing

## BY DANNY PETERSON

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER A new public gathering space for multiple organizations to share and one geared toward social justice issues and support for communities of color is giving various non-profit groups a better way to consolidate their limited resources and make a bigger impact.

The Dismantle, Change, Build Center (DCBC) is the newest designation for the old storefront at 14 N.E. Kill-ingsworth St.

The stewards behind the center are attempting to operate it within the spirit of how the space has historically been used: To provide a culturally diverse and enriching gathering and organizing space for community members in the tradition of the former Albina Arts Center, and later, In Other Words feminist bookstore, two organizations the space formally housed.

The importance of holding a shared stewardship of a community space is seen as both a logistical one in terms of cost sharing and for the ability to build on the number of voices who advocate and envision a better future for their stakeholders in the community, according to Anna Swanson, one of the organizers of the center and a volunteer with the group Critical Resistance Portland.

"We're taking the opportunity to be the future that we are working to create by holding this space, holding it collectively, living that sort of shared vision of sharing resources, not treating anyone as disposable, having a space that's really oriented around that," Swanson told the Portland Observer.

Critical Resistance Portland is a chapter of an international movement dedicated to the abolition of what it calls the "Prison Industrial Complex" through activism work. Their efforts are often geared toward advocating for the

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